

## **Eighth annual RIIL Awards Luncheon honors individuals for excellence in the classroom, on the athletic field and in the community**

The Rhode Island Interscholastic League honored more than three dozen student-athletes, coaches and school administrators for their exemplary achievements over the past year at its eighth annual RIIL Awards Luncheon, held April 10, 2019 at the Crowne Plaza in Warwick.

This year's honorees:

### **Student Athletes of the Month presented by Showcase Cinemas**

**September:** Nicholas Iarussi, Woonsocket HS, and Abigail Lecam, Narragansett HS

**October:** Jack Perreault, North Kingstown HS, and Maile Somera, Barrington HS

**November:** Christopher Germosen, Central HS, and Elizabeth Sullivan, Portsmouth HS

**December:** Hezekiah Adeyeye, Woonsocket HS, and Olivia Barboza, Cumberland HS

**January:** Michael Duffy, North Smithfield HS, and Julianna Desautel, Davies HS

**February:** Clinton A. Ogunronbi, East Providence HS, and Dalia Suslovich, Lincoln HS

**March:** Theo Mihailides, Ponaganset HS, and Mary Breen, Classical HS

**Student Athletes of the Year (Male & Female):** Michael Duffy, North Smithfield HS, and Maile Somera, Barrington HS.

**RIIL Spirit of Sport:** Rachel Motta, Tiverton HS

**Athletic Director of the Year:** Dick Fossa, North Kingstown HS

**Administrator of the Year:** Colleen Gribbin, St. Mary Academy Bay View

**Coach of the Year: Male** - Dan Silva, Boys Soccer, Tolman HS. **Female** - Anjelique Cooley, Girls Cross Country & Girls Indoor Track, Central Falls HS

**Team of the Year:** North Kingstown HS Boys' Basketball Team

**RIIL Distinguished Service Award:** Cindy Bowden, RIIL Boys & Girls Swim Sport Director

**NFHS State Award for Outstanding Service:** Betty Marquis, RIIL Fastpitch Softball Sport Director

**RIIL Student Advisory Board – Senior Members:** Matthew Campellone, La Salle Academy; Madison Flaxington, Lincoln HS; Nick Quarella, North Kingstown HS; Nicholas Gwaltney, Prout School; Taylor Troiano, St. Raphael Academy

**RI National Guard Adjutant General Award:** Paul Fedorenko, Bishop Hendricken HS

**RI National Guard Honorable Mention:** Aliyah Vieira, Mt. Hope HS

**RI National Guard Honorable Mention:** Henry Saucedo, Johnston HS



## **Administrator of the Year**

**Colleen Gribbin**

**St. Mary Academy – Bay View**



Named the 2007 Rhode Island Principal of the Year by the Rhode Island Association of Secondary School Principals, Colleen Gribbin became the first lay person to serve as the principal of St. Mary Academy - Bay View when she was appointed in 1996. More than two decades later, she continues to lead the all-girls school with the utmost professionalism. During that time, Gribbin has made many contributions to the RIIL, serving on the Principals Committee on Athletics, as well as the Finance Committee, Education Committee, 9th Grade Boys Basketball Committee, Field Hockey Committee, Hall of Fame Committee and Hearing & Waivers Committee. She is also currently serving as the RIIL's Director of Tennis.

## **Athletic Director of the Year**

**Dick Fossa**

**North Kingstown High School**



After nearly two decades at Narragansett High School, where he coached football and baseball and served as the Athletic Director, Fossa moved one town over to become the Athletic Director at North Kingstown high School in June of 2017. The Skippers athletic programs have continued to thrive under Fossa's administration. NK's success during the fall and winter sports seasons of the 2018-19 school year has included back-to-back Division I Girls Volleyball Championships, the Division I Super Bowl, the boys basketball team's first-ever Division I and State Championships, the Class A Girls Cross Country Championship and the Southern Division Boys Cross Country Championship.

## **RIIL Student Advisory Board Award**

The R.I. Interscholastic League would like to recognize the efforts of graduating Student Advisory Board members Matthew Campellone of La Salle Academy, Madison Flaxington of Lincoln High School, Nick Quarella of North Kingstown High School, Nicholas Gwaltney of The Prout School and Taylor Troiano of St. Raphael Academy. These student-athletes have proven to be an invaluable resource to the

League. This year they launched an Anyone-Can-Save-A-Life initiative encouraging sports teams to develop an Emergency Action Plan. They also oversaw the fifth annual Peanut Butter Express Challenge, a statewide initiative to fight hunger in Rhode Island. They helped coordinate a leadership training workshop for student-athletes. And they represented Rhode Island at the New England Student Leadership Conference.

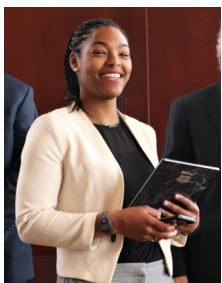
The RIIL offers its sincerest thanks to Matthew, Madison, Nick, Nicholas and Taylor for their commitment to helping the league pursue its mission to provide educational opportunities through interscholastic athletics.



## **Female Coach of the Year**

**Anjelique Cooley**

**Central Falls High School**



One of the finest success stories ever to come out of Central Falls High School, Anjelique Cooley competed in basketball, volleyball and indoor and outdoor track there from 2007 to 2011, helping the Warriors capture two Division III volleyball titles and a Division III basketball championship. After earning a Bachelor of Science in Health & Exercise Science with a Minor in Coaching at Syracuse University, along with a number of other coaching certifications, she has returned to her alma mater where she is now a permanent substitute teacher in the Central Falls school district and also coaches the girls cross country team, as well as the girls and boys indoor track & field teams. In the spring, Cooley is an assistant coach for the girls and boys outdoor track teams at Mt. St. Charles Academy. "Every year, all my athletes hit seasonal bests each meet and their lifetime best by the end of the season," she says proudly.

**Male Coach of the Year**  
**Dan Silva**  
**Tolman High School**



Dan Silva's fifth season as head coach of the Tolman boys soccer team proved to be one for the history books, as the Tigers captured their first title since winning the Division III crown in 2001 and their school's first State Championship since the girls basketball team won the 1977 title. Finishing with a 14-0-4 record, Tolman advanced to the Division I state finals thanks to victories over North Kingstown and South Kingstown. In the title match, the Tigers found themselves still locked in a scoreless tie with just six seconds left in regulation when Aliou Sissoko redirected a corner kick by Roy Barrios that ricocheted off the post and into the net for the game-winning goal. Goalkeeper Nilton Semedo recorded five saves in posting his 10th shutout of the season and helping Tolman to its first unbeaten season since 1994.

**Team of the Year**  
**North Kingstown High School Boys Basketball Team**



Prior to this season, the North Kingstown boys basketball team had just two Class B crowns to its name. By season's end, the Skippers had added two more trophies to their case. They began by capturing their program's first Division I Championship, thanks to a 64-60 victory over three-time defending state champion Bishop Hendricken, helping Coach Thomas celebrate his 400th career win along the way. There was one more, even bigger celebration to come as North Kingstown capped off its dream season by defeating Woonsocket, 77-57, in the title game of the Credit Union Basketball Championship at the Ryan Center.



**Distinguished Service Award**  
**Cindy Bowden**

**RIIL Boys & Girls Swim Sport Director**



Cindy Bowden's contributions to the sport of swimming span three decades and include coaching, officiating and serving as the RIIL's Director of Boys and Girls Swim since 2008. Her responsibilities as the swim director are many. They begin with organizing the regular-season schedule and end with administering the divisional and state meets, along with everything in between. Bowden's diligent approach and attention to detail have ensured the success of the entire boys and girls swim season each year for the past 11 years. She has also served the children of Warwick as an elementary school teacher for the last 29 years.

**NFHS State Award for Outstanding Service**  
**Betty Marquis, RIIL Director of Fastpitch Softball**

This season marks Betty Marquis' 29th year serving as the RIIL's Director of Fastpitch Softball. Her long tenure as softball director is just one of many contributions that she has made to Rhode Island student-athletes over the past five decades. During that time, she taught health and physical education, served as an athletic director and held various assistant principal and principal positions at Pilgrim, Warwick Vets, Coventry and Lincoln High Schools. Marquis also helped usher in girls' athletics in the 1970s, coaching field hockey, basketball, volleyball and softball. She has served on numerous boards and committees, including the Principals' Committee on Athletics, the RIIL's Sub Committee on Athletics and the National Federation's softball rules committee.







## 2019 RI National Guard Adjutant General's Award

### RI National Guard Adjutant General Award

Private Paul Fedorenko, Bishop Hendricken HS



A senior at Bishop Hendricken, Paul has been a four-year varsity swimmer for the Hawks, earning All-State honors this year, and also played rugby for three years. He is taking an extracurricular EMT class at Hendricken and plans to study engineering at the University of Rhode Island after he completes his initial entry training for the military.



### RI National Guard Honorable Mention: Private Aliyah Vieira, Mt. Hope HS



Aliyah is a senior at Mt. Hope High School, where she plays volleyball, tennis and softball. She also excels in the classroom, winning a first-place award at the R.I. Science and Engineering Fair last year. Upon graduation, Aliyah plans to attend the University of New Haven, where she will study forensic psychology while also serving in the National Guard.

### RI National Guard Honorable Mention: Private Henry Saucedo, Johnston HS



Currently a junior at Johnston High School, Henry competes for the Panthers' soccer and wrestling teams and excels at both. After graduating from high school next year, he hopes to attend a technical school while serving in the National Guard.

## Spirit of Sport Award

### Rachel Motta, Tiverton High School

As Rachel Motta's field hockey coach at Tiverton High School, Bethanie Ferguson came to learn what a fiercely competitive and selfless teammate the midfielder was as she helped lead the Tigers to back-to-back appearances in the Division I Championship in 2006 and 2007. But Ferguson discovered just how truly selfless Motta is last fall when she donated a kidney to her former high school coach, who in 2006 was diagnosed with a genetic disorder called Alport syndrome. "There are absolutely no words to say 'thank you' to her," Ferguson, the mother of a 2-year-old son, says of Motta. "She's going to give me a whole new life." Motta serves the student-athletes in her community and beyond in numerous ways as a health teacher at Tiverton Middle School, the head girls lacrosse coach at Tiverton High School, an assistant field hockey coach at Moses Brown and a volunteer assistant coach for the Portsmouth boys basketball team.



## 2018-2019 Student-Athletes of the Year

*Receiving the Honorable Monsignor Robert Newbold Scholarship Awards . . .*

### Michael Duffy, North Smithfield High School

As Michael Duffy's tennis coach at North Smithfield High School for the last two seasons, Courtney Smith says "I have seen many student athletes, I have seen nationally ranked tennis players, and worked with professional ones as well. Never in my life have I been more in awe or proud of one of my players. Michael is a very special young man who I know will continue to be the respectful, diligent, and compassionate man after he graduates." Also a member of the soccer team, Vice President of the National Honor Society and a member of the French Club and Men's Choir, Michael was accepted Early Decision to Seton Hall University's five-year Masters program in Diplomacy. He has been involved with a number of charitable efforts supporting The Mayan Families Organization in Guatemala, donating half his earnings from part-time jobs to support the 2010 earthquake relief effort in Haiti and in 2014 persuading his family to sponsor a child from Haiti, which is his mother's home country.



### Maile Somera, Barrington High School

Recently honored as co-winner of the 2018 Words Unlimited Rhode Island Schoolgirl Athlete of the Year and Gatorade R.I. Girls Volleyball Player of the Year for the third time, Maile Somera concluded her high school career at Barrington High School with 1,387 kills and 832 digs, guiding the Eagles to the Division I-A regular-season title and a runner-up finish to North Kingstown in the Division I Championship. As the sole captain and one of only two seniors, the 5-foot-9 senior outside hitter took her leadership skills to a new level, said head coach Ron Enos, who noted that "it's truly like having an assistant coach on the floor." All the while Maile displayed the utmost respect and sportsmanship to her coaches, teammates, opponents, referees, and fans alike. Also an exceptional student with a 4.18 GPA, she will continue her academic and athletic career at Yale University in the fall.





